

**CERCLA 104(e) INFORMATION REQUEST**  
**URGENT LEGAL MATTER: PROMPT REPLY REQUESTED**  
**VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS**

Mr. Bob James, President  
Jones-Hamilton Company  
30354 Tracy Road  
Walbridge, OH 43465

Re: Norphlet Chemical Superfund Site, Norphlet, Union County, Arkansas  
SSID No. A6N8

Dear Mr. James:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) seeks cooperation from Jones-Hamilton Company, in providing information and documents relating to the Norphlet Chemical Superfund Site (Site). Your information will aid EPA in its investigation of the release or threat of release of certain hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants at this Site.

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 104(e), 42 U.S.C. § 9604(e), gives EPA the authority to require that you respond to this information request (see Enclosure 1). We encourage your company to give this matter its full attention, and ***we respectfully request that Jones Hamilton, respond to this request for information within thirty (30) days of its receipt of this letter.*** Failure to respond to an information request may result in EPA seeking penalties of up to \$37,500 per day of violation. In addition, furnishing false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations is subject to criminal penalty under 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

Please provide a written response to Ms. Jamie Bradsher, Enforcement Officer, at the address included in the Information Request. If you have any questions regarding this letter, contact Ms. Bradsher at (214) 665-7111. For legal questions concerning this letter, contact Mr. James Turner, Assistant Regional Counsel, at (214) 665-3159.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel Coleman, P.E.  
Director  
Superfund Division

Enclosures (3)

## **ENCLOSURE 1**

### **NORPHLET CHEMICAL SUPERFUND SITE INFORMATION REQUEST**

#### **RESPONSE TO INFORMATION REQUEST**

Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as the federal “Superfund” law, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) responds to the release or threat of release of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants into the environment to stop additional contamination and to clean-up or otherwise address any prior contamination.

EPA is requesting information under CERCLA Section 104(e). Section 104(e) may be found in the United States Code (U.S.C.) at Title 42 Section (section is denoted by the symbol “§”) 9604(e).

Pursuant to the authority of CERCLA §104(e), you are hereby requested to respond to the enclosed information request. If you have any questions concerning the Site’s history or this information request letter, please contact Ms. Jamie Bradsher, the designated Enforcement Officer for the Site, at phone number (214) 665-7111 or fax number (214) 665-6660. Please mail your response within 30 calendar days of your receipt of this request to the following address:

Ms. Jamie Bradsher, Enforcement Officer  
Superfund Enforcement Assessment Section (6SF-TE)  
U.S. EPA, Region 6  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

If you or your attorney have legal questions that pertain to this information letter request, please contact Mr. James Turner at phone number (214) 665-3159 or fax number (214) 665-6660 or mail questions to the following address:

Mr. James Turner, Senior Counsel  
Office of Regional Counsel, Superfund Branch (6RC-S)  
U. S. EPA Region 6  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Norphlet Chemical Superfund Site (Site) is located outside of El Dorado, Arkansas at the location of the former Macmillan Oil Refinery (a previous Non-NPL Removal Action). The Site is a chemical manufacturing facility in the business of producing a refrigerant (HFC-134A) that is used in automobiles. The primary raw materials used for producing this product are Anhydrous Hydrogen Fluoride (AHF), Trichloroethylene (TCE), and a catalyst. The company that is believed to own and operate this Site, Norphlet Chemical Inc. (NCI), apparently attempted to produce the intended product for Tulstar Products, Inc. (TPI), a/k/a Tulstar Refrigerants LLC and Tulstar Refrigerants, Inc., based upon a tolling agreement contract between TPI and NCI, but was unsuccessful.

The EPA became aware of this facility in March 2009 and immediately informed the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). The EPA offered its assistance if deemed necessary by the ADEQ. On April 15, 2009, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) conducted an Infrastructure Protection Inspection of the facility and was alarmed with its conditions and the fact that it was abandoned. On April 15, 2009, DHS contacted EPA about their concerns with the site. The major concern was that the abandoned Site had containers of AHF and mixtures of AHF, TCE, and intermediate refrigerants. In addition, the conditions of these containers were questionable. The EPA and DHS contacted various State authorities and then participated in a call concerning the Site. On April 16, 2009, EPA received a written request from ADEQ to address the situation at the Site.

The EPA dispatched its START Contractors to begin air monitoring. The EPA arrived on the Site on April 17, 2009, and met with Federal, State, County, and City officials and evaluated the Site. The EPA determined that an Imminent and Substantial Endangerment existed as a result of the abandonment of the facility, the conditions of the tanks, and the close proximity of the school and surrounding residents to the facility. On April 16, 2009, Union County Judge Bobby Edmonds declared an emergency. Because of the emergency order and the close proximity of the site to the school, the school was closed on Friday, April 17, 2009.

On April 19, 2009, EPA attempted to transfer material from the tanks in to tanker trucks. In order to accomplish this, piping was removed from the tanks to allow the connection of a pump and hoses. The transfer operation failed due to pump problems, however; there were no injuries or significant releases of material.

The EPA is in the process of obtaining bids for transportation and disposal. It was determined that high pressure intermodal containers was necessary for storage and transport of the AHF Mixture tanks (TT10 and 11) due to the organics within the tanks. Additionally, EPA is in the process of obtaining a pump with viton diaphragm and gaskets to handle the materials. The EPA is continuing real time air monitoring, sampling activities. Also EPA is awaiting the arrival of rail cars to transfer AHF and waiting to find out if the company Salvay will accept the materials of TCE.

## ENCLOSURE 2

### NORPHLET SUPURFUND SITE INFORMATION REQUEST

#### INSTRUCTIONS and DEFINITIONS

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please provide a separate narrative response for each and every Question and subpart of a Question set forth in this Information Request.
2. Precede each answer with the Question (or subpart) and the number of the Question (and the letter of a subpart of a Question, if applicable) to which it corresponds.
3. If information or documents not known or not available to you as of the date of submission of a response to this Information Request should later become known or available to you, ***you must supplement*** your response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Moreover, should you find, at any time, after submission of your response, that any portion of the submitted information is false or misrepresents the truth, or, though correct when made, is no longer true, you must notify EPA of this fact as soon as possible and provide EPA with a corrected response.
4. For each document produced in response to this Information Request, indicate on the document, or in some other reasonable manner, the number of the Question (and the letter of a subpart of a Question, if applicable) to which it responds.
5. You may assert a business confidentiality claim covering part or all of the information which you submit in response to this request. Any such claim must be made by placing on (or attaching to) the information, at the time it is submitted to EPA, a cover sheet or a stamped or typed legend or other suitable form of notice employing language such as "trade secret," "proprietary," or "company confidential." Confidential portions of otherwise non-confidential documents should be clearly identified and may be submitted separately to facilitate identification and handling by EPA. If you make such a claim, the information covered by that claim will be disclosed by EPA only to the extent, and by means of the procedures, set forth in subpart B of 40 CFR Part 2. If no such claim accompanies the information when it is received by EPA, it may be made available to the public by EPA without further notice to you. The requirements of 40 CFR Part 2 regarding business confidentiality claims were published in the Federal Register on September 1, 1976, and were amended September 8, 1976, and December 18, 1985.
6. Personal Privacy Information. Personnel and medical files, and similar files the disclosure of which to the general public may constitute an invasion of privacy should be segregated from your responses, included on separate sheet(s), and marked as "Personal Privacy Information."

7. Objections to questions. If you have objections to some or all the questions within the Information Request Letter, you are still required to respond to each of the questions.

## **DEFINITIONS**

The following definitions shall apply to the following words as they appear in this enclosure:

1. The terms "and" and "or" shall be construed either disjunctively or conjunctively as necessary to bring within the scope of this Information Request any information which might otherwise be construed to be outside its scope.
2. The term "any", as in "any documents" for example, shall mean "any and all."
3. The term "arrangement" means every separate contract or other agreement between two or more persons.
4. The terms "document(s)" and "documentation" shall mean any object that records, stores, or presents information, and includes writings of any kind, formal or informal, whether or not wholly or partially in handwriting, including by way of illustration and not by way of limitation, any invoice, manifest, bill of lading, receipt, endorsement, check, bank draft, canceled check, deposit slip, withdrawal slip, order, correspondence, record book, minutes, memorandum of telephone and other conversations including meetings, agreements and the like, diary, calendar, desk pad, scrapbook, notebook, bulletin, circular, form, pamphlet, statement, journal, postcard, letter, telegram, telex, telecopy, telefax, report, notice, message, analysis, comparison, graph, chart, map, interoffice or intra office communications, photostat or other copy of any documents, microfilm or other film record, any photograph, sound recording on any type of device, any punch card, disc pack; any tape or other type of memory generally associated with computers and data processing (together with the programming instructions and other written material necessary to use such punch card, disc, or disc pack, tape or other type of memory and together with the printouts of such punch card, disc, or disc pack, tape or other type of memory); and (a) every copy of each document which is not an exact duplicate of a document which is produced, (b) every copy which has any writing, figure or notation, annotation or the like on it, (c) drafts, (d) attachments to or enclosures with any document and (e) every document referred to in any other document.
5. The term "identify" means, with respect to a natural person, to set forth the person's name, present or last known business and personal addresses and telephone numbers, and present or last known job title, position or business.

6. The term "identify" means, with respect to a corporation, partnership, business trust or other association or business entity (including, but not limited to, a sole proprietorship), to set forth its full name, address, and legal form (e.g. corporation (including state of incorporation), partnership, etc.), organization, if any, a brief description of its business, and to indicate whether or not it is still in existence and, if it is no longer in existence, to explain how its existence was terminated and to indicate the date on which it ceased to exist.
7. The term "identify" means, with respect to a document, to provide the type of document, to provide its customary business description, its date, its number, if any (invoice or purchase order number), subject matter, the identity of the author, addressor, addressee and/or recipient, and the present location of such document.
8. The term "person" shall have the same definition as in Subsection 101 (21) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601 (21).
9. The term "Site" shall mean and include the Norphlet Chemical Site located in Norphlet, Union County, Arkansas.
10. The term "you" or "Respondent" shall mean the addressee of this Request, the addressee's officers, managers, employees, contractors, trustees, partners, successors and agents.
11. Words in the masculine shall be construed in the feminine, and vice versa, and words in the singular shall be construed in the plural, and vice versa, where appropriate in the context of a particular question or questions as necessary to bring within the scope of this Information Request any information which might otherwise be construed to be outside its scope.
12. All terms not defined herein shall have their ordinary meaning, unless such terms are defined in CERCLA, RCRA, 40 CFR Part 300 or 40 CFR Parts 260-280, in which case the statutory or regulatory definitions shall apply.

### **ENCLOSURE 3**

#### **NORPHLET CHEMICAL SUPERFUND SITE INFORMATION REQUEST**

##### **QUESTIONS**

1. Please identify the person(s) that answer the below questions on behalf of Jones-Hamilton Company. Include the person(s) contact information (address, phone number, e-mail address).
2. Describe any day to day activities/roles of the Jones-Hamilton Company at the Norphlet Chemical facility. Name the employees involved in those activities/roles and provide the addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of those individuals.
3. List the dates the Jones-Hamilton Company operated at the Norphlet Chemical Inc. facility.
4. Discuss the role of the company particularly as it pertains to the contractual agreement to purchase HCL. Also provide the contract/agreement regarding the purchase of HCL.
5. What was your involvement with Tulstar Refrigerants Inc., Tulstar Products LLC or any other entity of the Tulstar Company, as it relates to the Norphlet Chemical facility? Provide any agreements, contracts or invoices.
6. What involvement did Jones Hamilton have with the production, storage and disposal of HFC-134a? Please explain in detail.
7. What was Jones Hamilton's relationship with Mexichem Fluor? Provide all contracts/agreements and invoices with your company and Mexichem Fluor?